



## PBD 720 and Force Shaping

Week of 14 – 21 Dec 06

Like you, the Air Force operates on a budget. Congress authorizes us a certain dollar amount to fund our service. This includes everything from operating our aircraft to ensuring Airmen are trained and ready for the fight. **Flying, fighting and winning** has been our budget focus for many years; yet we haven't upgraded our aircraft or weapon systems.

The average age of our aircraft is 25-years-old. How many of you drive a car that's 25-years old? These aircraft are less fuel-efficient, require a great deal of maintenance and parts are often hard to find. Our maintainers do a great job but the technology and the efficiency of modern aircraft are clearly leaps ahead of the aircraft and space systems our Air Force employs today. We know this and so do our enemies. **We must transform our force to be ready to meet tomorrow's threats. That's why we need PBD 720 and Force Shaping.**

Congress, in Program Budget Decision number 720 (PBD 720), granted the Air Force authority to reduce manpower authorizations to save money. The Force Shaping Program outlines how manpower reductions will be accomplished to ensure the Air Force meets the force reduction mandated by PBD 720, and maintain our mission capability. **We must provide our warfighting commanders with skilled and experienced Airmen with the right equipment, weapons, technology.** The \$6 billion realized from PBD 720 will allow us keep our main focus on equipping Airmen, rather than simply manning equipment. It's not just about "cutting" people; it's about streamlining and equipping our force-building a new Air Force- to better defeat the threats of today and tomorrow.

**Force Shaping will help us mold our service so we remain the world's greatest Air Force.** New technologies allow one Airman to do the work of many Airmen. Some of our career fields have excess manning and we'll work to move those positions to stressed career fields. Having the right number of people in our force, and the right balance in our specialties, makes us more efficient and saves money so we can build the Air Force of the future.

There are many changes ahead and they will affect you. Some have already been asked to retrain. Others may not be able to reenlist. Your Air Force will provide assistance to those leaving our service and help minimize the impact on you and your families.

Know that your service to your country has tremendous value and is deeply appreciated by those you defend and protect. I am proud to serve with you.

*"We have to make difficult decisions today to ensure we have the right capabilities for the future, and to continue to recruit, train and equip and retain the Airmen of tomorrow. It's important that we all understand the need to recapitalize the Air Force now, so that Airmen 10 to 20 years from now will be able to deter, dissuade, or defeat future threats."*

- CMSAF Rodney McKinley

### For more information:

#### Website:

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/forceshaping/shape.htm>

#### News Articles:

*Two new programs guide enlisted force shaping* - <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123029269>

*AF officials announce 2007 force shaping initiatives* - [http://www.af.mil/news/story\\_print.asp?storyID=123023952](http://www.af.mil/news/story_print.asp?storyID=123023952)

#### Senior Viewpoints:

CSAF's Vector - <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/csaf.asp?id=262>